

## SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1937.

Bimport House,  
Shaftesbury,  
10th August, 1938.

To the Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

## Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area 42,000 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid 1937—8,347.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books—2,747.

Rateable Value—£35,506.

Sum represented by a penny rate, 1937-38—£144.

### Social Conditions.

Mainly dairy farming. Three bacon factories and one factory which manufactures dried milk products.

There is not much unemployment in the district.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—128.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ... ..	124 ...	62 ...	62
Illegitimate ... ..	4 ...	2 ...	2
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—15.3.			

### Still Births—3.

2 males and 1 female : both males were illegitimate,

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—22.9.

### Deaths—111.

53 males and 58 females.

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—13.3.

Deaths from puerperal causes—1.

Puerperal sepsis—Nil.

Other Puerperal causes—1.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—7.6.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births—23.4.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—24.2.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—13.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—Nil.

## Section B.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area

1. (i) Medical Officer of Health—David Arnott, M.B., Ch.B. (to 30th June, 1938.)  
Sanitary Inspector—H. C. Cox, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
This Officer is also Petroleum, Housing Inspector, Surveyor under the Public Health Acts

and acts as Meat Inspector for the whole district, with the exception of Messrs. Oake Woods Factory, Gillingham ; Lt. Col. T. Sealy Green, M.R.C.V.S., is Meat Inspector at that Factory.

(ii) (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

No change during 1937.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

No change during 1937.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**

No change during 1937.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

An Orthopædic Clinic has been opened at the Westminster Memorial Hospital Shaftesbury.

(e) **Hospitals—General Scheme.**

The Blandford Rural District Council suggested in general, the terms upon which they would carry out works at their hospital to bring it to the standard required by the County Councils Scheme under Section 63 Local Government Act 1929, which terms were not regarded as sufficiently specific. Specific terms were then obtained and considered unacceptable. The cost of alteration of the Blandford Hospital was put at £6,875 as against the previous figure of £6,500, the Council were required to contribute to the capital expenditure on the basis of population and rateable value over periods of 15 and 21 years, but would not then participate in ownership: payment of 10/- per day for maintenance and nursing was required in place of the present rate of 6/- per day, and ambulance hire, and medical treatment were to be charged extra. Blandford R.D.C. did however indicate they were prepared to adjust the daily rate so as to make neither profit nor loss. As it was clear to this Council as conveners of the previous conference of North Dorset Authorities, that there was no likelihood of Agreement being reached on the County Council Scheme, the County Council were asked to reconsider their Scheme and convene the next Conference.

In November a Conference of North Dorset Clerks was held and they expressed the opinion—

- (i) That the best area for the purpose would be that in respect of which a whole time Medical Officer of Health is to be appointed, namely:—

Shaftesbury Borough,  
Shaftesbury Rural District,  
Sherborne Urban District,  
Sherborne Rural District,  
Sturminster Rural District.

- (ii) That Blandford Borough and Blandford Rural District should be eliminated from Area No. 3 of the scheme.

- (iii) That Areas Nod. 2 and 3, as amended, should be combined, and that a Joint Hospital Board should be set up for the new area.

And recommended "that subject to the agreement of the five Local Authorities comprised in areas Nod. 2 and 3, as amended, application to be made to the Ministry of Health to amend the scheme adopted by the County Council on the 17th May, 1933, accordingly."

The Council informed the Blandford R.D.C., they were not prepared to contract with them, and with a view to creation of a more sound financial unit, suggested that the Dorset County Council Scheme should be amended to provide for a Joint Board for:—

- (a) General Isolation Hospital Accommodation in Areas 2 and 3.

- (b) **Small Pox.**—Small Pox Hospital in the same Area.

- (f) The Caretaker left on 25th March, but the questions of a new appointment and the carrying out of works was deferred owing to the uncertainty of the future use of the building.

## Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### 1. (i) **Water.**

- (a) **Ashmore.** (See Boyne Hollow No. 2).

- (b) **Boyne Hollow No 1.**

This supply is highly satisfactory. The Final account is still not settled and the revised estimate of the total cost remains at £22,000.

- (c) **Boyne Hollow No. 2.**

The main contract for mains and reservoir to extend the supply to Compton Abbas, Fontmell Magna and Iwerne Minster has been carried out and services will shortly be made. Public Dipwells and pumps, and private wells and one private piped supply at Iwerne



Minster were found to be polluted, but the Council were able to erect temporary stand pipe supplies pending the laying on of individual services.

A scheme to lay a new main from Fontmell Magna to a reservoir near the Crossroads at the top of the Hill to the east and to continue the main south through the top of Sutton Waldron and Iwerne Minster to serve a necessitous area there, also to extend the mains through the village of Sutton Waldron, has been approved by the Ministry of Health subject to certain financial guarantees. The Fontmell Hill extension will ensure an adequate supply to Ashmore if their present supply (which on occasions is worked to capacity) breaks down.

(d) **Blandford R.D.C.**

The supply of water in bulk to the Blandford R.D.C. is being afforded.

(e) **Buckhorn Weston.**

This has been satisfactory.

(f) **East Stour.**

This is mainly served from Boyne Hollow, with which its accounts have been incorporated.

(g) **Gillingham.**

Concern has been expressed as to the condition of the reservoir at Warminster Hollow, Mere, and the condition of certain mains between Mere and Gillingham, and investigations are proceeding.

(h) **Motcombe.**

The supply from Holwell for the Brickworks and a few domestic users has been found unsatisfactory, and a chalk filtration has not removed the trouble. Investigations and experiments have been made and pure water hauled as necessary.

(i) **Quantity.**

The water has generally been satisfactory in quality and quantity, apart from any areas the Council have or are taking steps to improve, as mentioned in the previous paragraphs of this report.

(j) **Quality and Water Supplies Generally.**

A special Committee was set up to consider Ministry of Health Circular 1684 and their Report on the Inquiry into the outbreak of Typhoid at Croydon in October and November, 1937, and their recommendations as subsequently amended to date (10th August, 1938), are as under:—

**Minute 4136.**

- (2) That the Sanitary Inspector bear in mind the necessity of seeing that temporary latrine, etc. accommodation is provided for the use of workmen while buildings are being erected, are not placed in positions likely injuriously to affect water supplies.
- (3) That the fullest co-operation should exist between officers particularly with the Medical Officer of Health, and that officers should consult each other as circumstances require particularly in connection with the works at the source of supplies.
- (4) As amended by Minute 4441 (2).  
That it be a condition of appointment of persons engaged in works of water supply that they submit themselves for medical examination and test for Weidel blood test reaction, and that reports on their health be made each six months. The Medical Officer of Health agreed that this examination comes within his duties as Medical Officer of Health.
- (5) That satisfactory arrangements be made for urination etc., including the use of a vessel which can be closed.
- (6) That the Engineer be asked to proceed with map of the Council's Water Supplies particularly 6" key map.
- (7) That no action is considered necessary in connection with possibility of pollution in storage cisterns and danger therefrom in cases of properties being unoccupied for periods, except in the event of an epidemic.
- (8) That the question of regulations or byelaws requiring among other things the provision of a tap or storage cisterns be referred to the General Water Committee for consideration.
- (9) That there seems to be no point in creating a Committee of contact between the Public Health Department and Medical Practitioners, that the usefulness of such a Committee is obvious if an epidemic arose.
- (10) That (with regard to water analysis):—
  - (a) Chemical Analysis should be taken only when water supplies are first laid down unless any special circumstances warrant otherwise.
  - (b) As amended by Minute 4441 (3).  
That bacteriological analysis be obtained on all water supplies of the Council monthly or more frequently should the Medical Officer of Health consider it necessary in connection with any particular supply.

- (c) That it be suggested to the County Council that they should provide free reports on analysis in respect of all samples submitted by local authorities.
- (d) That reports on the Gillingham—Mere Joint, the Motcombe and the Boyne Supplies be obtained at once, and if the County Council's Scheme for dealing with analysis is not ready by November that quotations be obtained for acting under this recommendation,
- (e) As amended by Minute 4441 (4).  
That the Sanitary Inspector inspect the whole system of water supply, quarterly, (in company with the Medical Officer of Health, half yearly), particular attention being paid to gathering grounds and surrounding areas, and removal of possible sources of contamination: reporting thereon to the Water Committee and the Public Health Committee.
- (f) With regard to special safeguards for wells or borings into chalk or limestone that the Clerk write
  - (a) to the Ministry of Health as to special safeguards recommended
  - (b) the Joint Water Committee as to:—
    - (1) Burden's Nursery.
    - (2) New House by the road at entrance of joint works.
    - (3) As to the Sanitary accommodation for the workmen at the pumping station.

(k) **Administration.**

Mr. Christie who has been the Council's Waterworks Manager for 23 years left the service of the Council on 1st January, 1937, to take up a wholtime appointment in the Mere and Tisbury Rural District.

The Shaftesbury Rural District Council promoted Mr. J. H. Burt from Assistant to Waterworks Manager, and in addition appointed Mr. Aubrey J. Allen, F.S.I., (who was the consulting Engineer for the Boyne Hollow No. 1 and No. 2 Schemes), as Superintending Engineer, and have also appointed permanent instead of casual fitters, etc.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

(a) **Gillingham.**

The County Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector reported the sewerage arrangement to be entirely unsatisfactory, the latter reporting trouble experienced in different parts of the Parish. In October the Inspector submitted map showing so far as he could ascertain the position of existing sewers and their points of discharge, reporting that 9 of the 10 outlets discharge direct to the river, and expressing the opinion that the only remedy was the provision of a proper sewerage scheme. Following consideration of his special report dated 25th October, 1937, the Council decided to invite applications from experts in sewerage schemes for the appointment of Consulting Engineer, with a view in the first instance to the preparation of a preliminary report on the sewerage disposal requirements of Gillingham.

(b) **Iwerne Minster.**

The Main Sewerage Scheme has been completed (although the Final Cost is not yet known), but considerable complications arose on the question of drainage of premises to the sewers. The Council were anxious to make as complete and satisfactory a job of the sewerage and drainage of the Parish as possible, and the Council's Officers have spent much time in making investigations and reports (a complete and detailed report and estimates of cost being made for each house or group of houses), and a Special Committee spent much time in considering and recommending the actions to be taken on each Report. Recommendations of a general nature were applied where possible, and a Special Report (26th Jan. 1938), summarized the recommendations, and estimating the proportion of cost to be borne by the Owners at £1039 and the Council at £1373 (the latter being equivalent to an 11d. rate at Iwerne Minster for 30 years. The Scheme was submitted to the Ministry early in 1938.

**2. Rivers and Streams.**

(i) **Bourton.**

The Farma Cream Company's extensive purification plant and drainage scheme has been completed, and a satisfactory effluent is now discharged into the stream.

(ii) **Gillingham**

A Scheme at one of the Bacon Factories for purifying the effluent before discharging it into the river has been completed.

(iii) **Cann.**

Further complaints were received of sewerage polluting a stream on land belonging to Holm and Ivy Farm, and originating from the Area of the Shaftesbury Borough Council and dealt with by that Council when their attention was called to the nuisances.

**3. (i) Closet Accommodation.**

A number of drainage systems have been relaid whilst some conversions have been made from the dry to the water carriage system.



(ii) **Public Cleansing.**

Household refuse is now collected from Bourton, Gillingham and Motcombe.

A report on the Council undertaking the collection of household refuse for the whole, or selected areas of the district, is in course of preparation.

(iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	1376
Number of Informal Notices	...	...	...	23
Number complied with	...	...	...	20
Number of Statutory Notices	...	...	...	2
Number complied with	...	...	...	2

(iv) **Shops.**

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Acts, 1934.

(v) **Smoke Abatement.**

No action taken.

(vi) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There is one Public Swimming Bath at Gillingham, but no action taken by the Council to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water.

(vii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No action has been taken by the Council.

**4. Schools.**

The sanitary condition and water supply of schools generally is regarded as good, but no special action was taken in relation to the health of scholars.

## Section D.—Housing.

**1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	456
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	881
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60

**2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
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**3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—**

(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :								
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—								
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :								
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—								
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :								
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :								
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

**4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—**

(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

(c).—(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	0
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	0
Total					1667

A scheme for rehousing persons to be displaced by Demolition and Clearance Orders, and to abate overcrowding, has been provisionally approved by the Ministry and the Council is proceeding in the selection of sites. The number of houses to be provided has increased from 92 to 98.

## Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.					
Number of persons on Register at the end of 1937	...	...	...	...	196
Number of Dairy Farms and Other Dairy Premises on Register at the end of 1937	...	...	...	...	196
Number of Dairy Farms inspected during 1937	...	...	...	...	48
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	133
Number of Notices served	...	...	...	...	30
Number of Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	30
Number of Milkshops inspected	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	8
Number of Notices served	...	...	...	...	0
					683

The Administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, has been very much neglected in later years for various reasons, but latterly and chiefly because the Inspector has been almost fully engaged in other important duties.

The Inspector spends a lot of time with the County Veterinary Officer in connection with applications for Accredited Licences.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.					
A number of visits have been paid to food premises and attention paid to tradesmen selling meat and fish from vans.					
The general condition of the six slaughterhouses now registered is good.					
Particulars as to ante and post-mortem inspection of condemnations of each class of animal, and the disease for which they were condemned have not been kept, but the requirement has now been brought to the notice of the Inspectors.					
The Inspector at Oake Woods Factory, is Lt. Col. T. Sealy Green, M.R.C.V.S.					
The Inspector for the remainder of the Rural District is H. C. Cox, M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.					
The particulars recorded are as follows :—					

	Oake Woods Factory. (All pigs).		Rest of District.	Total
Number of Inspections	...	415	365	780
Number of animals killed	...	37272	10938	48210
Approximate weight (tons)	...	2653	866	3519
Number of carcasses, inspected	...	37272	...	37272
Number of entire carcasses condemned	...	216	...	216
Number of parts of carcasses or organs condemned	...	14159	...	14159
Weight condemned (tons)	...	57	14	71
Hours engaged	...	830	...	830
Percentage condemned	...	2.16	1.58	2.02

(c) Adulterations.					
The following is a list of samples taken in the District during the year ended 31st December, 1937 :—					

Article	No. of Samples	Genuine
Butter	1	Yes
Blanc Mange Powder	1	"
Condensed Milk	1	"
Corned Beef	1	"
Dried Fruit	1	"
Dripping	1	"

Article				No. of Samples	Genuine
Gin	...	...	...	1	Yes
Honey	...	...	...	1	"
Lemon Cheese	...	...	...	1	"
Milk	...	...	...	10	"
Sausages	...	...	...	1	"
Sulphur, Flowers of	...	...	...	1	"
Tea	...	...	...	1	"
Whisky	...	...	...	2	"

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**  
 No change.

(e) **Nutrition.**  
 No action.

(f) **Shellfish (Molluscan).**  
 There are no laying or shell-fish beds in the District

## Section F.—Prevalance of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1937.

Disease			Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital			Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	24	...	13	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Pneumonia	...	...	8	...	0	...	?
Other diseases generally notifiable							
(specify disease)	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Other diseases notifiable							
locally (specify disease)	...	...	—	...	—	...	—

Only about half of the Scarlet Fever cases were sent to the Isolation Hospital compared with 96% in 1936, and isolation at home has proved very satisfactory.

The only epidemic consisted of 12 cases of Scarlet Fever at Bourton.

### Tuberculosis.

Age Periods			New Cases Respiratory		New Cases Non-Respiratory		Deaths Respiratory		Deaths Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	0

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Yours faithfully,

DAVID ARNOTT M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.



## Appendix.

### **Bye-Laws, etc. in Force.**

Ministry of Health Order 63, 724, dated 16th June, 1915, determining expenses of house refuse removal in the Contributory Place of Gillingham to be Special Expenses.

Ministry of Health Order 75, 140, dated 20th December, 1930, determining expenses of house refuse removal in the Contributory Place of Motcombe to be Special Expenses.

Rural District Council Slaughterhouse Bye-Laws dated 27th May, 1922, for the licensing, registering and inspection of Slaughterhouses. (Expired 31st March 1936).

Standing Orders dated 4th October, 1934, made under Section 96 and Rule 4, Part V. of the Third Schedule of the Local Government Act, 1933.

Bye-Laws with respect to Nuisances arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes, and rubbish and for the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises so as to be injurious to health. Applicable to the Contributory Place of Gillingham, and operative as from 1st April, 1935. Made under Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1875 as applied by the Rural District Councils (Urban Powers) Order, 1931.

Bye-Laws with respect to the Decent Conduct of Persons using Sanitary Conveniences provided and maintained by the Council. Applicable to the Contributory Place of Gillingham, and operative as from 1st June, 1935. Made under Section 20 (1) of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 as applied by the Rural District Councils (Urban Powers) Order, 1931.

Bye-Laws with respect to New Buildings and certain matters in connection with Buildings. Applicable to the Rural District of Shaftesbury, and operative as from 1st August, 1935. Made under Section 157 of the Public Health Act, 1875 ; Section 23 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 ; the Rural District Councils (Urban Powers) Order, 1931, and any other authority or enactment in that behalf enabling.

Shaftesbury Rural (Urban Powers) Order, 1935, being Ministry of Health Order 83754, dated 5th November, 1935, directing the provisions of Section 114 of the Public Health Act, 1875 (as to offensive trades) to be in force in the Contributory Place of Gillingham, and operative as from 25th November, 1935.

Shaftesbury Rural (Public Health) Order, 1936, being Ministry of Health Order 84389, dated 14th January, 1936, declaring Section 16 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act. 1907, as to retention of approved plans, to be in force in the Rural District of Shaftesbury. Operative as from 3rd February, 1936